



# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

## FOR SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

GRANT, GREEN, IOWA, LAFAYETTE, RICHLAND, & ROCK

June 2005

### Declining Unemployment Rates in May

Four of the six counties that make up Southwest Wisconsin reported declines in their May unemployment rates, as compared to the previous month. The May rates for both Lafayette and Iowa Counties were unchanged in May, holding at four percent.

Fifty-four of Wisconsin's seventy-two counties had lower unemployment rates in May than they had experienced in April, while nine were unchanged and nine had higher rates in May. There were thirteen counties with unemployment rates below 4.0 percent. Paradoxically, Dane County with a 3.1 percent unemployment rate, the state's lowest unemployment rate, was one of the nine counties that experienced a higher rate for May than April. Ozaukee County had the next lowest unemployment rate at 3.6 percent.

Nationally, the trade deficit showed slight improvement in May, reflecting a temporary decline in world oil prices (as of this writing, this temporary decline has evaporated). Meanwhile, a continued surge in clothing and textile shipments pushed the shortfall with China to the highest level in six months. The US Commerce Department reported that America's trade deficit fell to 2.7 percent in May to \$55.3 billion, the best showing since March. The bulk of the progress came from a big drop in oil prices, which pushed the value of petroleum imports down 6.8 percent.

On a national scale, the past few years have been some of the toughest in decades for young summer jobseekers, and 2005 is not likely to get much better, according to a study by Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Studies.

Despite an moving economy, only 36.7 percent of young people between the ages of 16 and 19 are expected to find work this summer, down from 45 percent in 2000, the study found. According to the study young jobseekers are also competing with older applicants. Aging baby-boomers, particularly women, are increasingly filling positions in food service, leisure/tourism and retail, jobs once held almost entirely by teenagers. At the same

delphia sponsored by the Department of Labor. According to seasonally adjusted Bureau of Labor Statistics' data U.S. manufacturing employment declined from more than 17.6 million persons in June 1998 to 14.27 million in June 2005. However the president of the National Association of Manufacturers told conference attendees that official manufacturing employment figures do not capture thousands of other jobs without which the sec-

#### Labor Force Estimates (Unadjusted)

	Janesville * MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
<b>Current month: May 2005</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	84,500	3,032.4	148,878
Employment	80,300	2,893.5	141,591
Unemployment	4,200	138.8	7,287
Unemployment rate	5.0%	4.6%	4.9%
<b>Change from one month ago</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	-500	0.6	604
Employment	-400	5.3	652
Unemployment	-100	-4.8	(48)
Unemployment rate	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.0%
<b>Change from one year ago</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	2,100	-17.2	2,219
Employment	2,400	-9.4	2,724
Unemployment	-300	-7.9	(505)
Unemployment rate	-0.5%	-0.2%	-0.4%

*Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.*

*\* Janesville MSA Statistics include all of Rock County*

time, the soft labor market of recent years has found many job seekers in their early 20s taking jobs that used to be filled by high school students.

Despite sharp decreases in the number of Americans employed in manufacturing over the last several years, the sector remains vibrant and in need of thousands of highly trained workers, speakers said at a July 12 training conference in Phila-

tor could not function. Such jobs range from engineers writing the codes for manufacturing robots to employees of parcel delivery companies that allow manufacturers to rely upon "just in time" production techniques. One challenge, is not only encouraging U.S. high school students to take more math and science classes, but also to make vocational training more appealing.

# Southwestern Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

May 2005	Grant	Green	Iowa *	Lafayette	Richland	Rock	Region	Non MSA's **	Wisconsin
<b>Civilian Labor Force***</b>	27,404	18,989	14,209	8,722	10,008	84,500	163,832	79,332	3,032,366
Employed	26,298	18,170	13,640	8,376	9,620	80,313	156,417	76,104	2,893,532
Unemployed	1,106	819	569	346	388	4,187	7,415	3,228	138,834
Unemployment rate(%)	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.0	3.9	5.0	4.5	4.1	4.6
<b>Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ****</b>	19,100	14,000	11,000	3,470	6,400	71,000	125,000	54,000	2,844,500
Total Private	14,000	11,900	9,600	2,450	5,200	62,200	105,300	43,100	2,421,600
Goods Producing	3,500	3,500	1,400	640	2,000	20,300	31,400	11,100	642,300
Service Producing	15,600	10,400	9,700	2,830	4,400	50,700	93,600	42,900	2,202,200
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	700	600	740	150	200	3,400	5,800	2,400	139,000
Manufacturing	2,800	2,900	650	490	1,800	16,900	25,500	8,600	503,300
Trade	2,700	2,700	5,700	710	1,100	12,200	25,100	12,900	428,600
Transportation & Utilities	500	300	220	210	100	3,000	4,300	1,300	109,300
Financial Activities	1,000	400	240	150	200	2,000	4,000	2,000	157,700
Education and Health Services	2,500	2,100	800	220	800	9,000	15,500	6,500	384,400
Leisure & Hospitality	1,600	1,200	870	250	500	6,200	10,600	4,400	262,000
Info., Prof.& Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	2,200	1,500	410	260	500	9,500	14,400	4,900	437,300
Total Government	5,110	2,080	1,460	1,020	1,170	8,800	19,600	10,800	422,900
Federal	170	100	100	60	60	300	800	500	29,100
State	1,980	40	100	40	180	500	2,800	2,300	104,900
Local	2,950	1,940	1,260	920	930	8,000	16,000	8,000	288,900
<b>Change from one month ago</b>	<b>April 2005</b>								
<b>Civilian Labor Force***</b>	220	50	-90	160	-30	-500	-160	300	600
Employed	250	80	-90	150	60	-300	100	400	5,300
Unemployed	-30	-30	0	10	-90	-100	-260	-100	-4,700
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.9	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1
<b>Total Nonfarm (NFWS)****</b>	290	180	60	80	40	400	1,000	600	37,200
<b>Percent change NFWS last month</b>	1.5%	1.3%	0.5%	2.3%	0.6%	0.6%	0.8%	1.2%	1.3%
Total Private	300	100	100	40	0	400	900	500	37,300
Goods Producing	200	100	100	10	0	100	400	300	14,500
Service Producing	100	100	0	70	0	300	600	300	22,700
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	80	40	50	10	10	200	400	200	9,400
Manufacturing	130	20	0	10	0	-100	100	200	5,100
Trade	10	40	-10	10	20	100	200	100	3,700
Transportation & Utilities	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,200
Financial Activities	20	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	400
Education and Health Services	-10	-10	0	0	10	0	0	0	1,400
Leisure & Hospitality	60	70	20	10	-10	200	400	200	14,700
Svcs	-30	-50	0	0	-10	0	-100	-100	1,400
Total Government	20	50	-10	40	10	0	100	100	-100
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State	-70	0	0	0	0	0	-100	-100	-600
Local	80	50	-10	30	0	0	200	200	500
<b>Change from one year ago</b>	<b>May 2004</b>								
<b>Civilian Labor Force***</b>	-490	-210	-30	-380	-220	700	-700	-1,300	-17,200
Employed	-420	-150	-600	-360	-150	1,000	-100	-1,200	-9,400
Unemployed	-70	-60	60	-20	-70	-400	-500	-200	-7,800
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.2	-0.3	0.4	-0.1	-0.6	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2
<b>Total Nonfarm (NFWS)****</b>	140	190	-140	-120	40	2,200	2,300	100	27,000
<b>Percent change NFWS last year</b>	0.7%	1.4%	-1.3%	-3.4%	0.6%	3.2%	1.9%	0.2%	1.0%
Total Private	200	200	-100	20	100	2,300	2,600	300	26,300
Goods Producing	100	100	0	10	0	2,400	2,500	100	8,300
Service Producing	100	100	-100	-130	0	-200	-200	0	18,700
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	20	30	-20	10	10	100	100	0	5,400
Manufacturing	30	50	0	0	-10	2,300	2,400	100	2,900
Trade	10	20	-160	20	10	-100	-200	-100	-1,000
Transportation & Utilities	-10	10	0	0	10	-100	-100	0	1,500
Financial Activities	70	10	0	0	10	0	100	100	-500
Education and Health Services	100	-40	30	0	50	0	100	100	10,000
Leisure & Hospitality	-20	20	-10	10	0	-200	-200	0	5,700
Svcs	-30	60	20	-20	10	300	300	0	2,300
Total Government	-40	30	0	-140	-50	-100	-300	-200	700
Federal	-10	0	0	-10	0	0	0	0	-200
State	-20	0	0	0	-20	0	0	0	2,100
Local	-10	30	0	-140	-30	-100	-300	-200	-1,200

\* Since neither the US DOL nor Wisconsin DWD produces monthly NFWS INDUSTRY estimates for Iowa County, the NFWS INDUSTRY data for Iowa County presented here is based on interpolation

\*\* Five counties, excluding Rock County \*\*\* Includes participants residing in area. \*\*\*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.

Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2004